

Int'l Appl. No. : **PCT/EP2003/009393**
Int'l filing date : **August 25, 2003**

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to conform with the rules of practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The specification has been amended to recite the International Application. The word "CLAIMS" has been deleted and substituted by "WHAT IS CLAIMED IS" so that subsequently appearing claims will be the object of a sentence as specified by M.P.E.P. section 608.01(m).

The amendments to the claims are based upon the claims that were the basis for the International Preliminary Examination Report in the PCT phase. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report is attached as Attachment A. Please note that the International Preliminary Examining Authority considered that the submitted claims satisfied the requirements of PCT Article 33 with respect to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. In addition, in order to reduce filing fees, only claims relating to the method of claim 1 have been retained. Applicants reserve the right to submit claims directed to other embodiments of the invention in divisional application(s).

As a result of this preliminary amendment, Claims 8-27 have been cancelled, Claims 30-33 have been added and Claims 1-7 and 28-29 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-7 and 28-33 are presented for examination. No new matter is being added herewith.

Abstract

An Abstract on a separate sheet is included herewith.

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Conclusion

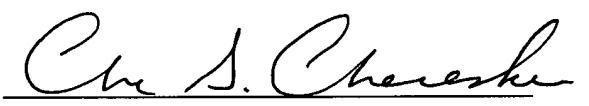
Should there be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number appearing below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Feb. 27, 2004

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